

they exist in Sarpy, Douglas and Lancaster Counties. There are also other election commissioners in larger counties who are appointed by their county boards and who do mostly election functions as distinguished from county clerks who often have many other duties and responsibilities because they are from smaller counties. So with that I would just urge defeat of the Pirsch amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Hall, do you wish to speak to the Pirsch amendment to the committee amendments?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members, yes, I would. I'd like to rise in opposition to the amendment. I think there has to be a case made for why the change is necessary. I think the system as it currently has been explained by both Senator Withem, Senator Schimek and Senator Lynch is one that is working well and that short of a special, I guess, problem, whether it be a personality problem or whatever is going on in Sarpy County, it makes little sense to change the overall system. I think in Douglas County the election commissioners that we have had over the years, whether appointed by a Democratic Governor or a Republican Governor, have done an outstanding job. I think the current election commissioner is one of the best that we have had. The deputy director is an outstanding individual as well. She happens to be from the other party than the sitting Governor. That, to me, brings responsibility, it brings accountability into the system and it works well in Douglas County. I think it works well, as Senator Schimek said, in Lancaster County and there has to be, I think, a very good reason other than a personality clash that is what the problem is here for us to change the law in this case. I would urge you to vote against Senator Pirsch's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. The Chair recognizes Senator Moore. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I also will speak against Senator Pirsch's amendment and I will be very brief. I believe that elections are a matter of statewide concern and the appointment to these positions should be under the...within the responsibility of the Governor. I have had disputes with every Governor who has been in office since I've been a member of the Legislature. That runs through former Governor Jim Exon, right up through